

In the Claims:

Please substitute the currently pending claims with the following:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An electronic equipment comprising:

a casing that encloses a spacing and that has a top panel covering the spacing;

a circuit board that has a pair of end portions and a major surface extending between the pair of the end portions for mounting a plurality of electronic parts on the major surface, the circuit board being disposed in the spacing of the casing in opposed relation to the top panel; and

~~a stay member that has~~ a plurality of stay members each having an elongated shape extending between the pair of the end portions of the circuit board for reinforcing the major surface of the circuit board, the stay member having a bottom coupling portion disposed in contact with the major surface of the circuit board for coupling with the circuit board, and a top contact portion disposed in contact with a back surface of the top panel for engagement with the casing,

wherein some of the plurality of electronic parts include a shaft portion disposed between the stay members on the circuit board, and

wherein the top panel of the casing includes insertion holes for inserting the shaft portion of the electronic parts such that the manual operating elements are attached to the shaft portions above the top panel.

Claim 2 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 1, wherein the casing has a pair of side panels disposed along opposite ends of the top panel for accommodating the circuit board between the pair of the side panels, and the stay member has a pair of end coupling portions at opposite ends of the elongated shape for coupling with the side panels.

Claim 3 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 2, wherein the side panel has a top panel mounting piece formed by bending an edge of the side panel, and the top panel mounting piece is formed with a threaded hole, while the top panel has an opening in correspondence with the threaded hole of the top panel mounting piece of the side panel, such that the side panel is fixed to the top panel by engaging a screw inserted into the opening of the top panel with the threaded hole.

Claim 4 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 1, wherein the circuit board is formed with a guide hole for positioning of the stay member, and the bottom coupling portion of the stay member includes a guide protrusion for engagement with the guide hole.

Claim 5 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 4, wherein the bottom coupling portion of the stay member includes a plurality of guide protrusions, at least one of which has a hook at the end of the guide protrusion, the hook being inserted into the guide hole of the circuit board and being bent so as to fix the stay member to the circuit board.

Claim 6 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 4, wherein the guide protrusion has a step portion at a root portion of the guide protrusion, the step being brought into contact with the major surface of the circuit board when the guide protrusion is engaged with the guide hole.

Claim 7 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 1, wherein the stay member has an elongated top plate extending between the pair of the end portions of the circuit board in opposed relation to the top panel, and a pair of elongated parallel plates folded downward from the elongated top plate such that the elongated top plate and the pair of the elongated parallel plates define a groove having a rectangular cross section for accommodating therein an electronic part.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 7, wherein the elongated top plate of the stay member has an opening for allowing ~~the~~ an electronic part accommodated in the groove to penetrate through the opening into the top panel of the casing.

Claim 9 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 7, wherein the top contact portion of the stay member is formed of a series of raised portions arranged along the elongated top plate of the stay member.

Claim 10 (original) The electronic equipment according to claim 7, wherein the elongated parallel plate is formed with a convex portion penetrating into the groove of the stay member so as to restrict an unnecessary rotation of the electronic part accommodated in the groove of the stay member.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1, ~~comprising a~~ wherein the plurality of the stay members are arranged in parallel to each other and coupled to the major surface of the circuit board for reinforcing the circuit board, one of the stay members having a different shape than other stay members such that said one stay member has an elongated top plate placed in opposed relation to the top panel, an elongated bottom plate placed in contact with the circuit board, and an elongated side plate connecting between the elongated top plate and the elongated bottom plate, the elongated top plate and the elongated bottom plate has a width smaller than a height of the elongated side wall.

Claim 12 (new) The electronic equipment according to claim 1, wherein the casing comprises a plurality of panels connected to each other, and the circuit board mounting the electronic parts is engaged with one of the panels and the manual operating elements attached to the electronic parts are disposed on the same panel as said one panel.

Claim 13 (new) The electronic equipment according to claim 12, wherein said one panel comprises the top panel.